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Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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Frat members charged with Christmas tree heist

Dave Humphreys
Copy Editor

Eight individuals associated with the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity have been charged with cutting down the Cheney community Christmas Tree, located in front of the city library on the night of Dec. 7. The Spokane County prosecutor's office has filed first degree theft charges against the eight students. First degree theft is a class B felony for which they could serve up to 10 years in prison and up to \$20,000 in fines.

According to Cheney Police, emergency dispatch received a call from a citizen using a cell phone who believed they saw several people stealing lights from the tree in front of the Cheney Library. The call was relayed to the Cheney Police, who dispatched officers to the scene. The officers were able to track the subjects to the intersection of 3rd and D Streets, whereby the group fled. Two suspects were detained by members of both Cheney and Eastern police departments and the tree was recovered.

According to police records, the suspects involved were:

Nicolas M. Anderson, Wesley B. Kilcup, Frank A. Perrow, Allen G. Quinney, Bradley J. Rogers, Justin A. Sebens, and Tristan A. Wood.

"They did something that was pretty irresponsible and illegal," said Cheney Police Chief Greg Lopes.

As to the involvement of the fraternity in the incident, Lopes thinks "fraternity systems are like any other system. You have good people, you have bad people," adding "I think what we're seeing is some irresponsible behavior by a group of people at this point."

Sigma Phi Epsilon released a press release on December 8 stating that the fraternity is "currently investigating the

matter and will be imposing disciplinary actions upon any members involved."

The fraternity denied organizational responsibility for the event, stating "This is in no way a Sigma Phi Epsilon-sponsored or organized event. We take full responsibility for the actions of our members however and will be imposing disciplinary action upon any members involved."

Sigma Phi Epsilon President Steve Larsen said that punitively, members face the possible punishments of suspension, fines and community service. As to the prospect of complete fraternal expulsion, Larsen said that expulsion is "possible, but not likely."

All members involved were listed as recently joining the fraternity.

"This was in no way any form of hazing," said Larsen. "They acted of their own accord."

Advisor for Student Organizations Department of Student Life Deena Rataeyk called the incident "one of the most stupid things they could do. It was a dumb prank."

ASEWU President Danny Caldwell called the incident "ludicrous," saying that he thought it was "the action of a few that should not be held against the Greek system."

"They've been busting their hump trying to get a good reputation back."

Caldwell also said he thinks alcohol must have been involved.

"It had to be alcohol-induced because I don't think anyone using their heads would've done it," said Caldwell.

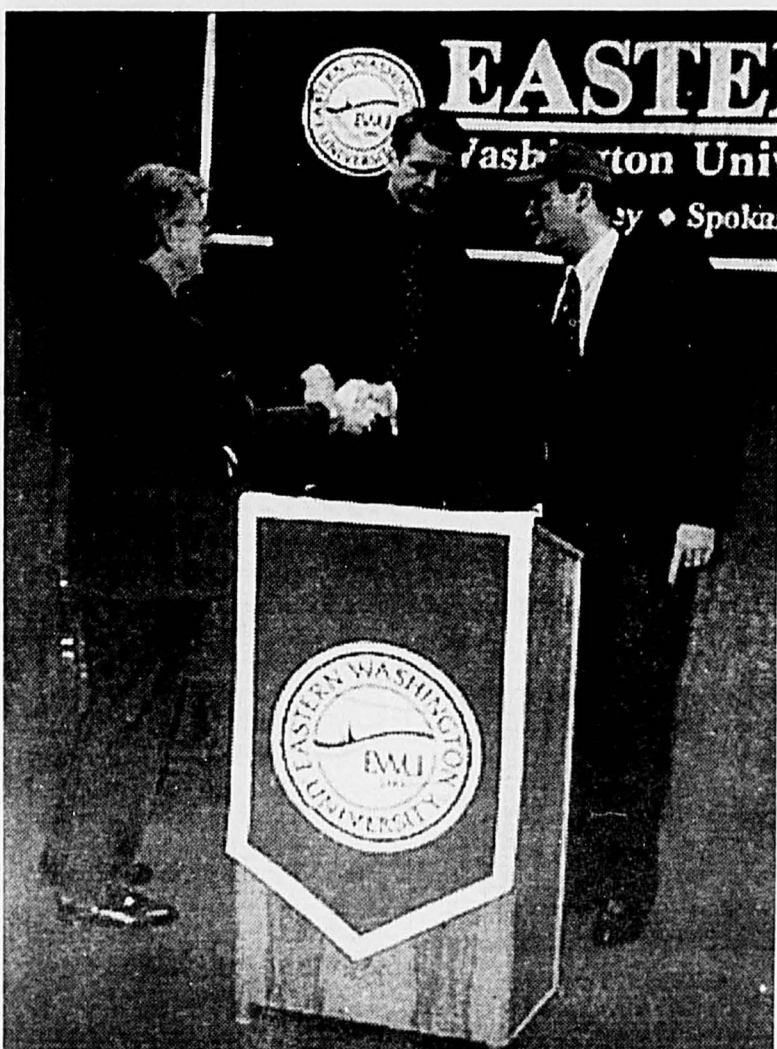
Larsen flatly denied this, saying, "It wasn't alcohol-related at all."

See Christmas Tree, Pg. 2



▲ In an attempt at apologizing to the citizens of Cheney, members of the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity erected a replacement Christmas tree in front of the community library. Some residents feel the old tree was a city landmark. The stump can be seen poking through the snow on the left of the tree in the photo above.

Eagles name Wulff as new football coach



▲ President Jordan congratulates Paul Wulff on his new position as Eastern's head football coach at a recent press conference.

Paul Wulff, a member of the Eastern Washington University football coaching staff for the past seven seasons, has been selected as the new Eagle head football coach.

Wulff, 32, will assume his new duties immediately. The 1990 graduate of Washington State University has served the past two seasons as offensive coordinator and the six years before that as offensive line coach.

"I hope to enhance what Eastern has accomplished in the last 15 years," Wulff said. "Hopefully we can take a step forward and continue to grow."

"This is an exciting occasion for me and my family," he added. "My family has been my biggest supporter."

Eastern Director of Athletics Scott Barnes has interviewed three candidates since Dec. 3 when former head coach Mike Kramer announced he was taking the head coaching position at Montana State University.

"We conducted an expedient but thorough search," Barnes said. "In the end we found somebody who has all the attributes we're looking for. Paul has great character and integrity, vast experience recruiting

the State of Washington and great relationships with coaches statewide. And he has proven ability in developing student-athletes on and off the field. All of these attributes add up to helping us move the program forward and win more Big Sky Conference championships."

Eastern President Dr. Stephen Jordan assisted Barnes during the interview process.

"What has impressed me the most about Paul is the high integrity he brings to the position, and the broad-based support he has in the community, particularly among the young men on the team," Jordan said. "We are very happy that he will be leading the Eastern Eagles football team."

Barnes said he was impressed at the number of people who called on behalf of Wulff.

"I was inundated by coaches, donors and alumni from all over the country," Barnes said. "But the most impressive references came from the student-athletes themselves. It wasn't just about liking Paul, it was the trust and respect they have in him that stood out."

"The internal and external

support has been overwhelming," Wulff said. "I'm very grateful, and happy that I've been able to impress other people. Now I hope to add to it."

Wulff expects to make an announcement in the next two weeks regarding his assistants, including the status of Eastern's current coaches. Besides Wulff, Eastern's other full-time assistants in 1999 were defensive coordinator/linebackers coach Steve Kizer, quarterbacks coach/academic coordinator Dave Telford, secondary coach Randy Hanson, defensive line coach Pete Kwiatkowski, wide receivers coach Jason Anderson, and running backs coach Torresy Smith. Smith has already joined Kramer at MSU.

"The first thing is to take care of the assistants who choose to remain here, and get them back on the road recruiting," said Wulff. "We need to resume recruiting and talking to players."

"We have to get involved in the community, and let the public know we have an outstanding product here," Wulff said. "We have a lot of quality players in our program, and put a pretty impressive product on the field."

INBC looks to students for new blood

Steven J. Barry
Student Life Editor

The Inland Northwest Blood Center (INBC) will send its Mobile Donor Coach to hold a blood drive, Saturday from 12 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at the Fire Station on 10 S. Presley in Cheney. The drive will be held by the local chapter of the Kiwanas, said to INBC employee Rebecca Bishop.

The Center's inventory of blood, normally lasting 5 to 7 days, has dropped to 2 to 3 days; a critically low level.

"It's not often that we use the 'C' word [critical]," said Bishop. "But with the holidays, the road conditions, and people being sick, we're having a hard time getting donors."

According to data collected by the National Blood Data Research Center, between 1994 and 1997, blood donations nationwide decreased 5.5% and transfusions increased 3.3%. The information shows that at this rate, the demand for blood will exceed the supply by the end of the year 2000.

Bishop said another cause for a

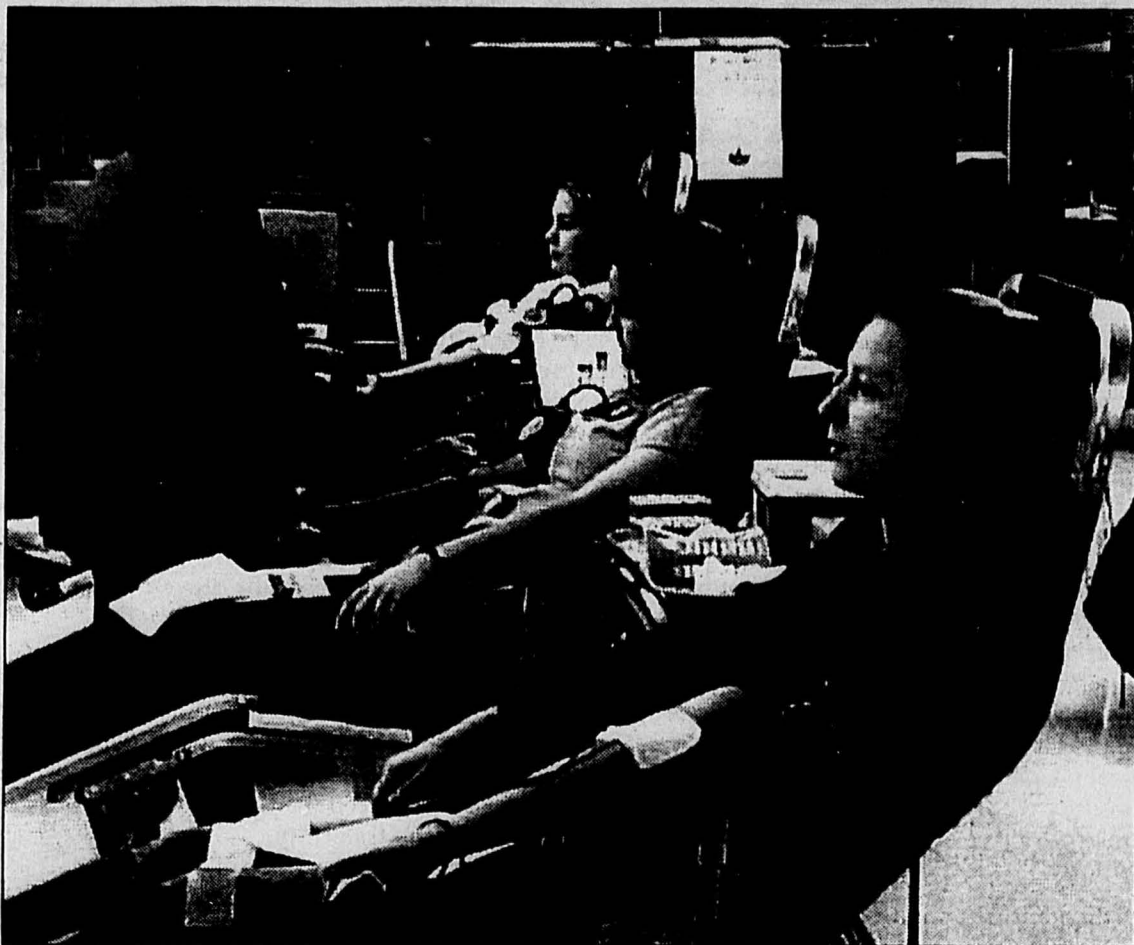
shortage of units is recent restrictions placed on donors who have traveled to the United Kingdom. Effective Dec. 1, 1999, donors who have spent an accumulative time of six months or more in the UK between 1980 and 1996 will be permanently deferred, said Bishop. These precautions are being taken to prevent the spread of the degenerative brain illness known as Creutzfeldt-Jacob Disease (CJD), or Mad Cow disease.

According to the center's Website, the INBC receives approximately 30,000 units of blood per year to supply 24 hospitals in the area, that service a total of approximately 800,000 citizens.

Bishop said that the decline in donations could be attributed to the aging population.

"As the routine, consistent blood donors age, the nation needs to turn to the 18-25 year olds to inform and encourage their volunteerism," said Bishop.

EWU students donate ► blood to the quarterly campus blood drive this fall.



Christmas Tree: Greek community finds felony charge extreme

from front page

Cheney Mayor Amy Jo Sooy said she thought it was a "very unfortunate incident."

Sooy said that though the fraternity has made great strides in replacing a tree, it has caused "quite a bit of concern on the part of the citizens of the city," adding that she "was upset and concerned that it may undo some advances we've made with the Greek community."

Sooy also said that the fraternity has announced plans to replace a more permanent tree in the Spring.

Rataeyk said another implication of the theft will be the students going before the University Disciplinary Committee, whereby they face the possibility of expulsion.

For the most part, Rataeyk and Larsen agree that they think the charges are extreme.

"I think that the charges are severe," said Rataeyk. "I don't think they warrant a felony charge," said Rataeyk.

"I hope this will not ruin the rest of their time at Eastern. They're good students. They did something dumb, but they're good people."

Larsen agreed, saying "it was a poor prank, but not one that justifies the legal consequences these individuals are

facing. Cutting down a tree doesn't warrant being charged with a felony."

Larsen also said he expects the students will try to plea bargain down to a lesser charge.

Caldwell was less sympathetic.

"They did it. They need to take responsibility for it. It's theft. In my mind it can be considered a destruction of personal property," said Caldwell.

"The law states that \$2,000 is a felony and if that's how the court sees it, then that's how they should be charged. I doubt whether the tree was worth two grand, but if the court finds it was worth that much, then it should be tried as such."

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Letters to the Editor

Tabloid was "offensive"

Dear Copy Editor Humphreys:

I want to thank you for clarifying the paper's reasons for publishing the Eastern Enquirer, which were (1) to "entertain," (2) to "stimulate thoughtful conversation," and (3) to "make the comfortable uncomfortable, and the uncomfortable comfortable." These reasons only lead me to believe that the Easterner staff is sorely in need of instruction in ethics and critical thinking skills.

First of all, the excuse that something in poor taste was only done in jest does not make the subject matter any less distasteful. The only politically incorrect avenue this piece didn't take was blatant racism. This insert insulted numerous groups and reduced women (and men, for that matter) to the simple sexual functions that they can perform.

"Entertainment" is no excuse for insulting the intelligence of the university's community. The Easterner has fallen short of its journalistic obligation and should apologize.

The second reason may have been achieved, but is the conversation that has ensued what your staff truly wants? In the conversations I've encountered, the consensus is that the Easterner staff is immature, ignorant and irresponsible. The next time that you want to stimulate thoughtful conversation through satirical work, try using current events as the base.

Remember Dave—between you, me, and everyone reading this—you found a few of the pieces in this insert distasteful yourself.

Your final reason is ridiculous, and I suspect, somewhat self-serving. I am a woman who was highly offended, so I must be one of the 'comfortable' people that should be made 'uncomfortable.' What is more frightening is the intended audience of 'uncomfortable made comfortable' people who would see some kind of vindication in the obviously degrading treatment of so many segments of our community.

Sincerely,
Suzanne Sutton



Insert was "distasteful, rude and crude"

Dear Editor,

I have looked forward to picking up The Easterner and reading about issues concerning "our" institution. In the past, there have been articles that were entertaining, informative and relayed the good things that were going on within the campus. However, the December 2, issue of The Easterner contained some articles that were truly inappropriate.

I found the "Special Pullout Section" to be distasteful, rude, crude and socially unacceptable. Especially since it was published representing Eastern Washington University. I don't know how this paper is financially supported, but other school papers receive funding from a portion of the student's "tuition." I certainly hope my money wasn't spent on this type of writing. I wonder how and why this tasteless issue was okayed for publication. Is this the type of journalism that Eastern Washington University produces? People who want to write for trashy tabloids?

This publication was a huge disappointment for me. This was the last printing of the quarter since finals were the following week and Christmas break after that. I wonder how many students would take that last issue home for their parents to read. How many visitors were here touring the campus and picked up of this issue.

In conclusion, I hope you will apologize for the issue, and I hope you do a better job, in the future, editing the articles and advertisements so they are a positive representation of the school.

Brenda Dixon

Easterner should run more tabloid inserts

Editor,

I just wanted to say the tabloid section in the Dec 2nd issue of the paper was great, cool stories, you guys should do that more often.

Thanks,
Kevin Beckwith

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

"It's not love that means never having to say you're sorry, it's the First Amendment."

Editorial, The New Orleans Times-Picayune, 1997

Looking forward to more sacred cow slaughter

Dear Editor:

I'd like to tell y'all how much I enjoyed the Easterner Enquirer special you did in the December 2nd issue. Was there a little too much squirrel humour? You bet. Were some of the articles damnably tasteless?

God yes—I mean, how could you imply that an American icon like Scooby Doo would live anything other than a chaste, pure, saintly life?

The only question, though, is "Was it funny?" My answer is a resounding yes. Mores were tweaked, society was commented on, and I very much feel that your staff did a great job of looking at the world and making some damned great commentary. I can't wait to see what sacred cows are turned into Baldy's Burgers the next time you do this (and I sure do hope there is a next time).

Sincerely,
Ryan Grant

"Evil" Dave Humphreys

Through out the 1990's, we have experienced a mild case of hypersensitivity. It seems that groups requesting tolerance have sprung up like weeds in the fertile ground of our politically correct times.

"Embrace us!"

"Love us, after all, we're all people."

"If you don't support what we do, then you are the one with the problem."

Wha....me?

All I was doing was minding my own business, not buggin' anybody, and all of the sudden, I've got a problem.

All of the sudden, I feel EVIL.

A couple of months ago, we ran a quaint little shot by Seth Swift titled "Christ get off my back." Well, it just so happens that this time, the paint runs the other way.

I try to be a Christian. Now don't think that I'm just gonna start shoveling salvation and damnation out on you like coal into a locomotive with such religious fervor as to make ol' Casey Jones himself jealous. I'd honestly prefer to have my actions (as bad as they can be sometimes) speak for themselves. I don't see myself as a bad guy, just someone who has an illness that nothing else can cure.

But that is the most prostylitizing you can usually expect from me.

But I keep on getting batted over the head with other people's morality, telling me what I have to do, what sort of behavior I have to embrace as my own personal norm, what my money goes to support, even if I disagree with it.

I won't ever support restricting what other people do. But if you want peoples money, doesn't it make sense that they should have a say in where it goes? On a more personal level, shouldn't I have a voice?

Even if I disagree?

I'm not racist, homophobic, sexist, or closed-minded, I just want to be able to keep my own personal beliefs and conscience. But I doubt many of you will see it that way. For this I guess I will be branded with a somewhat ironic title, even though I'm not a bible-thumper.

Evil Dave.

The Easterner

'Letters' policy

Please type or print your letter, restricting it to 250 words. Include your full name, signature and telephone number for verification. We reserve the right not to publish letters, and all printed material is subject to editing. Letters must be received by Tuesday to be published in the following Thursday issue.

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■ The Easterner provides a forum for our readers to express their opinions and concerns. Letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Easterner staff or EWU.

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Brotherhood can't cover idiocy

David Rey
Cheney Free Press

The jagged stump that once was Cheney's community Christmas tree still rests in the ground, serving as a painful reminder of the act of community terrorism done by a group that the city had grudgingly come to believe had put borish behavior behind them.

The city got a big slap in the face for being so naïve.

This story gets played out in college communities throughout the country. Greeks running amok.

It's always the same old story that gets followed by the same old excuses. Blame it on dumb pledges, blame it on alcohol-impaired judgement, blame it on a community that just doesn't understand what Greek organizations stand for and are trying to do.

Look at all of the philanthropy. Look at all the great people that were once fraternity and sorority members. Look at the opportunities we give our members.

What it boils down to is that the strength of the fraternity system is also its greatest weakness. That great intangible — brotherhood.

It's brotherhood that inspires fraternities to sweep clean city streets, to deliver food and clothing to community shelters and help out youth sports programs. It's this same brotherhood that can also lead to mass idiocy, lead to a mass suspension of community sense and lead to a mass feeling of "us against the world."

Curious how sororities seldom if ever are involved cutting down Christmas trees, stealing lawn furniture, brawling in the street or urinating on their neighbor's property. Apparently sisterhood carries with it a better understanding of acceptable behavior.

Look, fraternities are here to stay.

We're stuck with "boys being boys" — this isn't the last time something stupid is going to originate out of the curious brotherhood of our Greek letter friends.

But, if they want us to treat them civilly after this latest fiasco, they need to insist that Sigma Phi Epsilon deal with the eight amateur lumberjacks with a heavy hand.

Cleaning the floor of the upperclassmen's bathroom with a toothbrush and having to miss a few functions isn't going to cut it.

For willfully and wantonly destroying and attempting to steal property that not only wasn't theirs but also carried an intangible value that a dollar figure can't be placed upon, those eight deserve to be cut loose by the Sig Eps.

It's time to take that intoxication of brotherhood away from those young men, who proved conclusively they can't handle it.

Sigma Phi Epsilon will be a better place for it and regain a sliver of the trust and respect that the pranksters flushed down the toilet.

I don't expect that to happen, however. What will happen is that the fraternity will wrap their arms around them and claim they can be reformed. Expelling them would go against their mission of brotherhood, they'll say — everybody deserves a second chance.

Geez, it's not like it's going to ruin their lives. The only way they are going to learn a lesson from this idiocy is to pay a price, have something taken away from them that they value and appreciate. They need to learn the difference of brotherhood of men and brotherhood of thieves.

The survival of any relationship between Cheney's citizens and the Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity depends on swift and severe punishment of the eight members that cut down the tree.

I'M GONNA DO THE RIGHT THING + PASS THE LITTLE CUBAN BOY TO HIS DAD... BUT WE'VE GOT TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN INTERCEPTION...



Our take on the tabloid

Allen Moody
Editor

One of the items of great debate over winter break was unquestionably the four page tabloid insert in the last issue of the Easterner. Some loved it, some hated it, others didn't particularly care one way or the other.

There are several points which do need to be clarified.

The first is that not one cent of student fees went towards the insert. The money for producing those four pages came entirely out of my pocket. Anybody who tells you differently is wrong.

Second, it's a shame that it takes something like the tabloid insert to show just how apathetic our entire university has become. It's just not the students, but the faculty and administration as well.

Where was the outrage when we did a front page story on the members of SAFE being discriminated against?

It's a sad day for EWU when not one student, faculty or administration member will lift a pen or tackle their keyboard to speak out against blatant discrimination, but run a picture of a sheep in garters and talk about masturbation and people fall over themselves to get in line to complain.

The most common question people have is, "Why did we run it?"

Essentially for three basic reasons; to entertain, promote discourse and to jar people from their comfort zone.

Entertain: Was the insert amusing or was it offensive? I can't answer that and neither can anybody else. It's strictly a matter of opinion. What is amusing to one person is often offending to another. That's reality.

There isn't a single joke, television show or humor column that each and every member of the EWU community will find humorous, particularly when you're dealing with 18-year-olds to people in their sixties. You have two completely different perspectives of what is in good taste and what is tasteless.

Promote discourse: Fortunately students have been much more adept at discussing the tabloid insert than faculty and staff members, whose idea of discourse has been to go to my advisors and complain how offensive it was.

Do I wish they had brought their complaints to me? Sure, but what do I know, I'm just a student, right?

I've had some great conversations with students regarding the First Amendment, the First Amendment and how it relates to student S & A Fees (the Southworth case) and the role students have in the student newspaper, along with other topics.

Naturally, I'm a staunch believer in the First Amendment, even in the Southworth case, which may have a crippling effect on student newspapers, student government and some minority groups.

For those of you who didn't bother to read the article or the editorial several issues ago, the Southworth case involves a law student at the University of Wisconsin who sued the school because a portion of his student fees were going to support groups whose ideology he opposed.

Southworth argued that by financially supporting groups he opposes, such as the National Organization of Women and the campus Socialist group, he was be-

ing compelled into speech, thus violating his First Amendment rights.

So far Southworth has been victorious in every court decision and now the Supreme Court will rule on the matter later this year.

I'm also pleased that more students now know their input is appreciated, and is vital, to the Easterner's success. I'm looking forward to seeing students take a more participatory role through the "Letters to the Editor" section or the Opinion page. If we don't know what is important to the readers, we can't be expected to make the paper more interesting for them.

There were several topics, however, that were particularly troubling to me.

The first, is that some people are claiming the insert was degrading to women, especially the "Britney Spears page."

I couldn't disagree more strongly.

The "Britney Spears page" was a direct jab at all of the males who have taken a fairly talent-less, but attractive female and made her into multi-millionaire superstar, based solely on her appearance.

We certainly didn't force her to pose for any pictures in skimpy clothing. Instead, Ms. Spears did so of her own accord, knowing that the more guys who drool over her equates to more CD, poster and merchandise sales. Does anybody really think Britney had breast implants to improve her signing voice?

The second, and most troubling in my opinion as well as some students', was the willingness of the faculty and staff to try and dictate what is acceptable in a newspaper funded by students.

Most students are aware by now that a portion of their student fees go to support the Easterner. Yet it's those who don't pay for the newspaper, the faculty and staff, who have been the most vocal in their displeasure over the tabloid, and want to exercise control of its content.

Not only does this border on the edge of prior restraint, but I happen to find it far more offensive than anything ever printed in the Easterner, or even the University of Washington's The Daily, whose recent articles have included, "Cherry Popping" (the art of helping females lose their virginity), and listed, "Fuck with a TA" and "Fuck a TA" on their items every UW student should do before graduation.

Jar people from their comfort zone: The entire tabloid pull-out was a statement about today's society.

The name "Easterner Enquirer" was a jab at the readers of the top-selling newspaper in the country, The National Enquirer. Just as the National Enquirer is the top selling paper in the country, this past issue has been our most popular, and predictably so. Unfortunately, it appears to be what most readers want.

The Easterner Enquirer was also a jab at everyone on the EWU campus.

As mentioned earlier, where were the letters or phone calls when we reported on SAFE? How many letters did we get when the board of trustees announced program closures or when we reported that student fees may undergo a tremendous change? None.

Are our priorities as a campus so distorted the only thing that causes us to speak out is when we receive a kick in the pants by something that doesn't agree with our philosophy of good taste? Apparently so, and I happen to think that's pretty sad.

Winter movie reviews: A take on two of the season's hits

by Bryan English
Old-Time Reporter

Winter is the time of year for all the big prestigious Oscar-trolling films to fill the screens of multi-plexes everywhere. I thought the time was right for my take on two of the biggest.

"The Green Mile": Writer-director Frank Darabont, who made 1994's surprise hit "The Shawshank Redemption", adapts another Stephen King prison story, in this affecting, if slightly overblown, character study.

The year is 1935. Paul Edgecomb (Tom Hanks) is a guard in charge of Louisiana's infamous "Green Mile", the state prison's death row. Edgecomb is a decent man in a bad job, and this year has been his worse. Not only does he have to suffer through a painful urinary infection, he has to put up with Dean (Barry Pepper) a sadistic guard under Edgecomb's supervision who has high connections.

Enter John Coffey, a hulking, simple minded black man with no past or outside connections. Coffey has been convicted and condemned for the murder of two white girls. Edgecomb can't believe that this gentle man who cries whenever the lights are turned out, can be the perpetrator of such a horrendous crime.

This being a Stephen King story, there are liberal dollops of the supernatural mixed into all of this grim reality. Coffey has the ability to heal with one touch. He cures Edgecomb's urinary infection and restores the warden's cancer-ridden wife back to health. Edgecomb begins to believe that this man is divinely inspired and questions the wisdom of a system that put such a man to death.

No, the magical realism in this story is rather labored (Garcia-Marquez has nothing to worry about) and the religious metaphor is very unsubtle (John Coffey, JC. Get it?) but the movie still works as a character drama and isn't half as manipulative and sappy as it could have been. I shudder to think what would happen if Spielberg got his drippy claws in this material.

Hanks is as noble as ever. All though I am not as impressed with Tom Hanks as most people are, I am sure that his performance in this film will earn him yet another Oscar nomination.

The best part of this movie is watching a solid cast of character actors play quirky characters. The stand-out is Barry Pepper playing the oily villain, Dean. His performance manages to upstage such veteran hams as Harry Dean Stanton and James Cromwell.

Although it is not the masterpiece it is hyped as, and it could have lost about a half-hour from

it's running time, "The Green Mile" is one of the few highlights in an otherwise dreary movie year.

"The Talented Mr. Ripley": Dreary is the most succinct term I can come up with when it comes to this film. Visually pretty, but ultimately shallow and uninteresting. Ripley is one of the most disappointing book to film transfer I can think of in a long time.

Based on the classic crime novel by Patricia Highsmith and adapted by Anthony Minghella (The English Patient), the story concerns the Thomas Ripley and his adventures amongst the jet-set American expatriates in Europe circa 1959.

Ripley is sent to Europe by a rich shipping magnate to try to persuade the rich man's son to return to New York to take over the family business. Ripley then befriends the son under false pretenses and begins to envy the lifestyle of the idle rich. He then becomes de-

termined to take his place among this crowd, by any means necessary. To give away any more would be unfair.

Highsmith's original story is one of the best genre novels ever written. Maddeningly cynical and unjudgemental, the author forces the reader to identify with the sociopathic Ripley and his schemes.

This is one of the only stories where you are forced to root for the bad guy. And what a bad guy he is.

Minghella takes the book's amoral, scary protagonist and defangs him. The movie's Ripley is a bumbling, whiny bore with a crush on Dickey Greenleaf, the rich boy character. In an attempt to make the character and story more "audience friendly", he has gutted the main attraction of the story in the first place: everyone loves a good bad guy. Without that premise, we are left with a two-and-a-half hour Italian travel brochure and '50s fashion show backed by some great be-bop jazz. Yawn.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY- Women's Basketball vs. Idaho State, 7 pm @ Reese Court

SATURDAY- Women's Basketball vs. Portland State, 7 pm @ Reese Court

MONDAY- INBC Blood Drive, 12-5:30 p.m. @ Cheney Fire Station

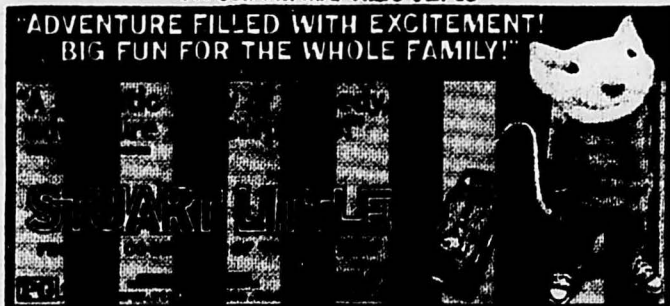
TUESDAY- ASEWU Council meeting, 3:30 pm @ PUB 323

WEDNESDAY- WYSIWYG: Alcohol Awareness, 7 pm @ PUB MPR

THURSDAY- Men's Basketball vs. Northern Arizona, 7:05 pm @ Reese Court

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Black History Month Essay Contest seeks entries

Eastern Washington University's Black History Month Essay Contest is seeking entries from students in Spokane County schools, colleges and universities.

Each year the essay contest, sponsored by the EWU African American Education Program, focuses on themes related to Dr. Martin Luther King and offers cash prizes to winners in four categories.

Essays must be postmarked no later than January 28, with prizes awarded at the Black History Month Banquet February 19. For more information, please call the EWU African American Education Program at (509) 359-2205.

This year's major theme is: Although we are still pursuing a more just and diverse society, Dr. King's dream has become a reality in various areas of American life.

These are the categories:

Elementary Division (grades 4-6)

Topic: Dr. King wanted to create a society where equality for all races existed. What did he do to make that dream real for you today? 200 words. Winning prize: \$75 and a certificate.

Junior High Division (grades 7-9)

Topic: How has the reality of Dr. King's dream made your life better? Please give some examples. 300 words. Winning prize: \$100 and a certificate.

High School Division (grades 10-12)

Topic: How would your life be affected without the changes brought in by Dr. King and others? What other changes do you hope to see in your lifetime? 500 words. Winning prize: \$150 and a certificate.

College/University Division

Topic: The Civil Rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s made progress in the U.S. political arena for people of color. What person over the past 30 years embodies this progress in your eyes? Winning prize: \$200 and a certificate.

Essays will be evaluated on originality, creativity, evidence of support for material, grammar, neatness and relevance of content to subject. Students are encouraged to cite examples (real life or fictional) as well as personal or historical accounts.

Essays with the appropriate cover letter should be submitted to

EWU AAEP Essay Contest Committee
MS-164
526 5th Street
Cheney, WA 99004-2431

Easterner Horror Scopes 2000



Aquarius: Though you may not meet a tall dark stranger, be on the look out for the large rather buffed gentleman behind you. This may be a good month to pay off those gambling debts. Go vegetarian on Friday, but don't eat any bean products.

Pisces: This is your time to hit the waves. Be outlandish. This may be your last time to go somewhere and vacation for a while. It wouldn't hurt to save some money first though. \$3 should do. Bean products are OK.

Aries: You know that one person you absolutely can't stand? Listen to them. The advice they give might make a heck of a lot more sense in about a week. Even if it conflicts with your normally good sense. It may be time to give up smoking. For a month.

Taurus: Bullish, as is the economy, this may be a bear of a time for you. SELL! SELL! SELL! Invest in the obvious long term. Heavens forbid you lose your money as well as your life. Whoops.

Gemini: Soul-Mated, perhaps you should reconsider any long-lasting engagements. Learn from a Taurus. Drive safely, and check to see if that significant other is as

financially secure as they say they are. I'll bet they invested in United Manure Co.

Cancer: Your moral character is getting short. Why not try watching Fat Albert reruns, The Magic School bus, or VeggieTales? Read a book. Look outside and watch the people. This is a good time to be very introspective.

Leo: AAAAAAACHOOO! You may have been playing too much in the cat nip 'cuz now you got's yourself a cold. Just try to get by in classes, and overdose on Echinacea and warm tea. Use the Easterner as a handkerchief.

Virgo: Phew! Use some more deodorant. Bad time of the year to find out which cologne or perfume works. After all, the people you're trying to impress have their noses up so high, there's snow on the tips, so why bother with the smelly stuff? Quit being naughty. It's just not cute anymore!

Libra: Eat a steak, indulge in some ice cream, and then watch Dr. Zhivago till you drool, or pass out whichever one comes first. Just don't forget to set the alarm! Darn, you missed class. Guess you'll just have to sleep 'till tomorrow. Good idea. Buy a Cadillac.


Scorpio: Try a different

musical taste. Roy Orbison, Elvis Presley, and Eric Clapton are highly recommended. NSYNC or the Backstreet Boys will work, but only after extreme inebriation. I do, however, highly recommend Brittany Spears, even if you're sober. Don't forget to floss, and remember--soap is your friend.

Sagittarius: This is the night. Such a beautiful night. And they call it bella noche. You are the lucky one who gets to fall in love. Maybe it will be in an unexpected, yet absolutely necessary direction for you to have a full life.

Capricorn: Don't eat popcorn for a while. Make some new friends, see what they're doing on Wednesdays. A little strange at first perhaps, but maybe there's something there you should look into. Just as long as they aren't associated with The Easterner. Then just walk away. Slowly.

These readings are from the renowned psychic "8-Ball." Heed his warnings; failure to do so has caused...well, nothing, really. Just heed the doggone warnings.



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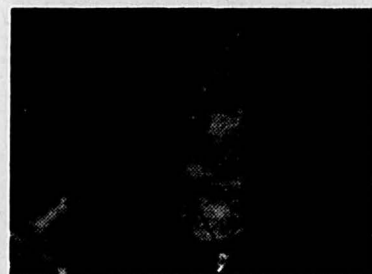
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Eagles begin Big Sky conference play tonight

The Eastern Washington University men's basketball team gets the luxury of being able to ease into Big Sky Conference competition with just one game this week. The opponent, however, isn't so luxurious anymore, as the Eagles travel to Idaho State to begin the 2000 conference schedule. Tip-off Thursday (Jan. 6) between the Eagles and the Bengals at Holt Arena in Pocatello, Idaho, is 6:35 p.m. Pacific time.

Idaho State has been the league's eighth-place finisher each of the past two years, while the Eagles have finished third and sixth those two seasons. The Bengals have lost to the Eagles in four of the past five meetings between the two teams, but are much-improved in 1999-2000.

Idaho State's victories have included a 72-57 drubbing of Santa Clara and a 78-66 road win at Portland. The Bengals lost to San Diego 64-61 on a neutral court, while the Eagles lost at San Diego by the same three-point margin, 62-59.

Eagle Head Coach Steve Aggers on This Week's Game: "I've been very impressed. Of any team in this league, they've made the most improvement from last year to this year. I think it was dramatic improvement."

"They did a great job recruiting, they have some big bodies and some great guards. They have a combination of inside and outside scoring ability, they rebound really well and they block a lot of shots," said Aggers. "We're going to have to play our best game of the season to beat them in Pocatello, I don't think there's any question about that."

Series History: Eastern has won four of the past five meetings against the Bengals, including a 97-95 overtime win in Pocatello in 1998. Last year, Eastern defeated ISU at home by 27 points (80-53) before losing in Pocatello by 26 (83-57).

Since Eastern became a member of NCAA Division I in the 1983-84 season, the Eagles are 15-18 against the Bengals, including a 4-12 record in Pocatello. Eastern lost eight-straight games to ISU from 1993 to 1997.

Olson & Jones Have Big Nights in Big Win: Junior Aaron Olson had the fifth-best scoring performance in school history with 36 points to lead Eastern Washington past Cascade College 112-86 on Dec. 29 at Reese Court. Olson made 15-of-18 shots from the field, including four three-point shots, as he came just eight points from the school record of 44. The 112 points the Eagles scored was the 10th-most in school history, just 12 from the school record of 124. A transfer from the University of Victoria who redshirted at EWU last season, Olson battled a wrist injury and strep throat during the first nine games of the season. With his 36-point performance, his scoring average surged from 6.0 to 9.3.

Junior point guard Jamal Jones had 14 assists to rank second all-time in school history and 12th in Big Sky Conference history. The school and conference record is 18 set by Ronn McMahon against UC-Irvine in 1988. The Eagles equaled a school record with 33 assists as a team.

The game was tied at 19 before the Eagles went on an 18-2 run to take a 37-21 lead with 8:32 to play in the first half. Eastern led 63-39 at halftime, and led by as many as 27 in the second half.

Besides Olson, four other Eagles scored in double figures. Kareem Hunter, Ryan Hansen and Alex McKie each scored 14 points, and Chris White chipped in 10. Jones was also Eastern's leading rebounder with eight, and had just one turnover in 33 minutes of action. Jones usually shares the point guard duties with Deon Williams, but Williams

sat out the game with an injured toe.

Aggers on Win Versus Cascade: "We played well together, and obviously we're a notch ahead of them competitively. Never apologize for winning, but we have to be able to play a whole lot better than we did against Cascade College. The six-day break really hurt us. We had a lot of rust on us from Christmas. We have to work on our conditioning, our timing and our execution."

Aggers on Olson & Jones: "Aaron had a great night and really scored well. He did a super job taking the ball to the hole. He had a lot of layups, and usually he's a three-point shooting threat," Aggers said.

"Making 15-of-18 shots from the field is awesome. He got a lot of looks in the paint and Jamal made some great passes. Jamal did a good job running the team and had a great night assist-wise. It was just an incredible night offensively."

Eagle Injury Report: In the month of December, all three of Eastern's point guards have suffered injuries. Deon Williams is the latest after suffering what is feared to be a broken toe in practice on Dec. 27. His status is day-to-day, depending on his pain threshold and time needed to heal. Earlier in the month, Ryan Hansen and Jamal Jones were injured but used the Christmas break to fully heal. After turning in an impressive offensive performance against Northwest College on Dec. 11, Hansen suffered a sprained knee while being fouled with just 2:34 left in the game. Although listed as doubtful for the Oregon State game on Dec. 15, he started at guard and scored 13 points in 35 minutes of action. Jones sprained his ankle versus NWC, but played 20 minutes and scored 11 points versus the Beavers. Small forward Aaron Olson missed the Northwest College game with strep throat, then played just seven minutes off the bench against Oregon State and just five minutes versus Colorado. He also had a wrist injury earlier in the season, but apparently is back to health as evidenced by his 36-point outburst versus Cascade.

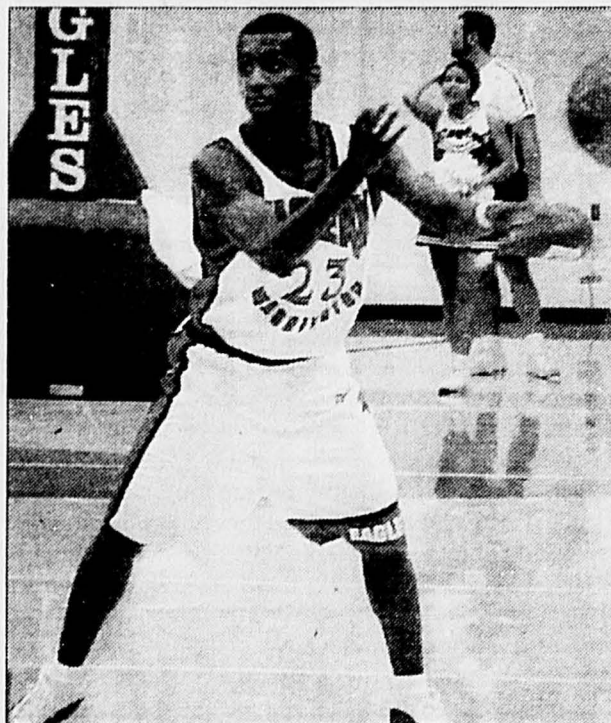
Aggers on Williams: "Deon's situation really concerns us. They think it might be a broken toe, it's swollen and he has no movement in it. Every time he stands, the weight on it aggravates it. It really concerns me because it hurts his conditioning. It's day-to-day and really scares me to death."

Pre-Season Schedule Was Indeed Tough: Entering this week, the seven NCAA Division I foes Eastern faced in the pre-conference season had a collective record of 49-29 for an impressive winning rate of 62.8 percent. Heading the list at 9-2 was Baylor, which was just 6-24 a year ago.

Eastern's other non-conference Division I opponents were Colorado (8-3), Oregon State (7-3), San Diego (7-4), Gonzaga (8-5), Idaho (5-5) and Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (5-7). The Eagles were 1-7 in eight games against those seven foes, in addition to a pair of wins versus NAIA opponents. Five of Eastern's non-conference NCAA Division I foes (Gonzaga, Idaho, Oregon State, Colorado and San Diego) had a collective record of 93-56 (62.4 percent) a year ago. Gonzaga finished 28-7 and advanced to the "Elite Eight" in the NCAA Tournament.

Said Aggers before the season began, "Good players want to play with other good players and against the best competition available. We have arranged a highly-competitive non-league schedule and look at it as an exciting opportunity. Whatever happens, it will better prepare us for the rigors of the tough Big Sky Conference race."

Entering the week, Will Levy ranks sixth in the Big Sky in rebounding (6.7 per game), and is third in offensive



▲ Jamal Jones turned in the second best single game assist total in EWU history.

rebounds (2.7). Kareem Hunter ranks 15 in rebounding (5.6) and Chris White is 16 (5.5). However, the Eagles are just eighth in rebounding margin as a team with a minus 5.1 per game. Jamal Jones ranks sixth in the league in assists (4.0), and his average of 1.38 more assists than turnovers ratio ranks seventh. Ryan Hansen is fifth in three-point shooting with an average of 2.1 per game, and Aaron Olson has made 45.2 percent of his three-point shots (14-of-31) to rank sixth in that category. Chris White is fourth in blocked shots with an average of 1.0 per outing. No Eagle ranks in the top 20 in scoring.

More Notes: The Eagles are 3-1 when they've held opponents to less than 42 percent shooting, and are 0-6 when opponents have shot better than that mark. Eastern is 3-1 when it has made at least 44 percent of its own shots, and 0-6 when the Eagles haven't. After nine games, Ryan Hansen leads the Eagles with an average of 10.9 points per game. Seven players are averaging at least 7.1 points a game, including Aaron Olson (9.3), Jamal Jones (7.8), Deon Williams (7.8), Will Levy (7.5), Chris White (7.3) and Kareem Hunter (7.1). The Eagles have been out-rebounded by an average of 5.3 per game thus far. The Eagles have been out-rebounded by 20 by Baylor and 13 twice by Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. Chris White and Will Levy, who both ranked in the top 12 in rebounding in the Big Sky last season, are on a similar pace this year. Levy is averaging 6.7 and White has a 5.4 average. Last year White averaged 6.3 to rank eighth in the Big Sky and Levy averaged 5.7 to rank 12th. Chris White had Eastern's first double-double of the season with 10 points and 10 rebounds against Texas A&M-Corpus Christi on Dec. 4. Kareem Hunter has the team's only other double figure rebound performance with 11 versus Oregon State. In the span of just three days, Eastern turned a 34-point loss to Gonzaga into a 13-point win against Idaho as the Eagles beat the Vandals 66-53 Nov. 29 at Reese Court in Cheney. Led by an enormous defensive effort and efficient play on the offensive end, Eastern's 66-53 win over Idaho snapped a 22-game losing streak in the series.

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Women's squad opens league play at home

Life on the road has become commonplace for the Eastern Washington University women's basketball team this season as six of the team's 10 games have been away from Cheney.

But for this week, at least, the suitcases can go back in the closet.

Eastern (4-6) will play as many home games this week as it has all season up to this point. The Eagles began their three-game homestand by defeating Portland 66-55, Tuesday at Reese Court.

Eastern then opens its Big Sky Conference schedule with back to back games against the Idaho State Bengals (2-9) on Friday, Jan. 7 and the Portland State Vikings (3-9) on Saturday, Jan. 8. Both games tip-off at 7 p.m.

Eagle Head Coach Jocelyn Pfeifer on this week's games: "It's nice that we are going to be home for a week. We have three games in a row and all three are tough opponents. Portland has always been good and they have played some pretty good competition. Idaho State and Portland State are both going to be tough. Portland State was second in the league last year and they lost only one player. Idaho State is always scrappy and ready."

Last Week: Six-foot-two forward Danielle Crockrom had 22 points, 15 rebounds, five blocked shots and five steals as Baylor defeated Eastern Washington 69-48 Dec. 30 in Waco, Texas. Tracy Ford-Phelps led Eastern with 12 points and seven rebounds. Allie Bailey added 10 points and a game-high 16 rebounds. Eastern made just 25 percent from the field, but Baylor wasn't much better at 35 percent. The Eagles missed 61 shots, including 11 of 12 three-point attempts, and Baylor missed 43. The result was a total of 113 rebounds as the Lady Bears held a 62-51 edge. Baylor took a 14-point lead at halftime, and led by as many

as 27 points in the second half.

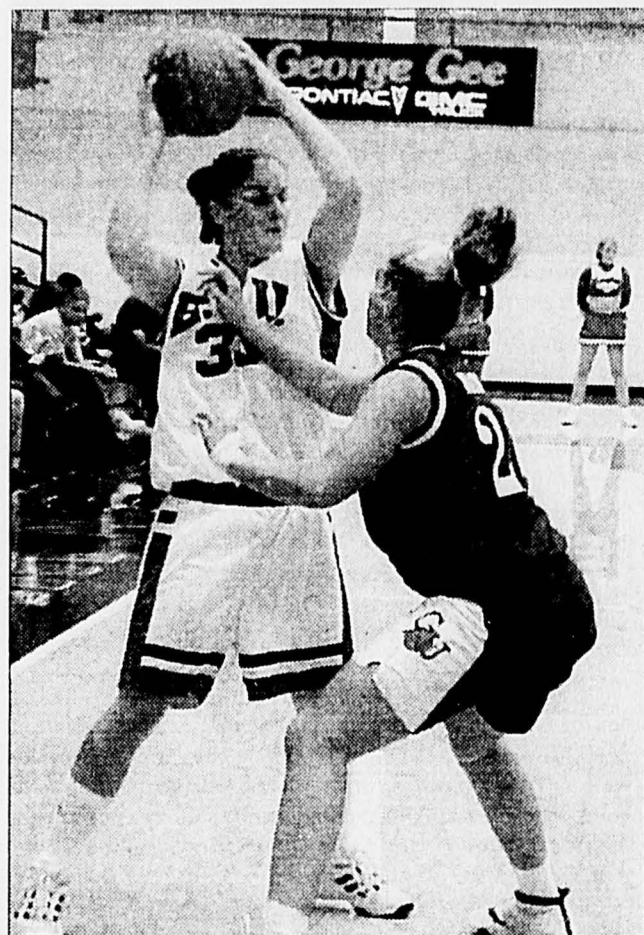
Pfeifer on Last Week: "It was a very tough shooting performance. We got a lot of shots and some good looks but they just didn't fall for us."

Turnover Turnaround: On only two occasions this season have the Eagles committed more turnovers than their opponents. Despite the advantage the Eagles are only 3-5 when committing fewer turnovers than their opposition. Eastern has averaged 20 turnovers in 10 games this season while its opponents have averaged 20.4 turnovers a contest. Last year, Eastern averaged 23 turnovers a game while its opponents averaged 17.4 a contest.

Pfeifer on the Team's Turnover Improvement: "Our turnovers have been a lot better. It has been an emphasis in practice. The kids have taken it upon themselves to take care of the basketball. They understand that every possession counts. We need to get a shot off rather than a turnover."

Bailey On A Roll: Sophomore Allie Bailey has recorded four double-doubles in points and rebounds this season. She has already exceeded her double-double season total from last year of three. In addition, she has recorded double digits in rebounds on seven occasions including a career high 19 boards Nov. 20 versus Northwest College. That performance against Northwest College is also conference high this year. Bailey leads the conference averaging 11 rebounds a game and is averaging 8.5 points a game.

Super Scorer: Senior Tracy Ford-Phelps has scored 20 or more points in four games this season. Ford-Phelps scored a season-high 23 against Portland, 21 in the season opening win over Northwest College and tallied 20 points against Cleveland State and Cal Poly. In addition, she leads the team and is fourth in the Big Sky in scoring.



▲ Stacie Granger is fourth on the team in scoring and second in rebounds.



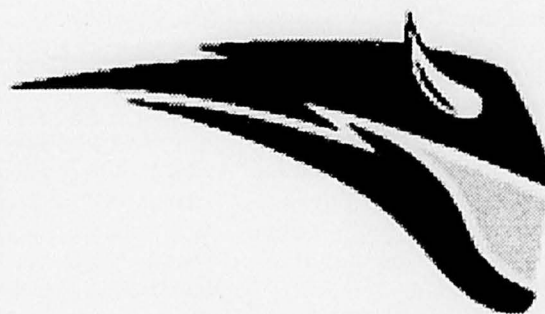
IDAHO STATE UNIV.
BENGALS

Friday: Idaho State at Eastern Washington Reese Court, 7:00 p.m.



Last season the Eagles defeated Idaho State in both meetings. Eastern won 64-49 at Reese Court and pulled out a 64-56 win in Pocatello.

The Vikings won both contests last season; 79-57 in Portland and 72-59 in Cheney.



Saturday: Portland State at Eastern Washington Reese Court, 7:00 p.m.



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Parks to be honored Jan. 15

Former players and fans are invited to help honor outgoing Eastern Washington University volleyball coach Pamela Parks on Saturday, Jan. 15 at Reese Court in Cheney.

A reception will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Reese Court in conjunction with Eastern's men's basketball game that evening against Cal State Northridge.

Parks and new Eastern volleyball coach Wade Benson will be recognized and introduced at halftime, along with the 1999 Eastern volleyball team which advanced to the NCAA Tournament.

For more information about the reception, call the Eastern athletic department at 359-2463.